

a right to know, what we are getting for \$65 million.

There are many other issues that my committee will examine about these acquisitions including:

What is the status of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the land surrounding the Headwaters Forest?

What impact will that Habitat Conservation Plan have on other property owners in the western United States and Pacific Northwest?

Has California come up with its \$130 million share of the purchase price for the Headwaters Forest?

Do both acquisitions comply with the terms of the National Environmental Policy Act?

How will the properties be managed? By whom?

At what cost?

How will the public access the Headwaters Forest?

Is it good public policy to settle constitutional takings cases against the United States in this manner?

Is it good public policy to settle environmental litigation in this manner?

How does the Clinton administration interpret the phrase "priority Federal land acquisitions?"

Are the Headwaters Forest and New World Mine acquisitions consistent with the Federal land management policy on Federal land acquisitions?

While this may seem like an exhaustive list of issue, I only have skimmed the surface of the numerous unanswered questions about the acquisitions.

I want all of these questions answered before the acquisitions occur. It is in the interest of the taxpayers. It is the responsibility of this body.

My goal is to ensure, despite the uncommon circumstances which have led us to this point, that Congress and the American people can have confidence in the decisions to acquire the Headwaters Forest and the New World Mine in the interest of the taxpayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I see several Senators seeking recognition, including the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ACTION VITIATED ON AMENDMENT NO. 1602 TO S. 1269

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the action on the Inhofe amendment, No. 1602, which was agreed to on S. 1269, be vitiated, and that the amendment be restored to the status quo when the Senate resumes the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank all Senators for their cooperation on this matter.

I particularly want to thank Senator INHOFE for agreeing to do this. He came to the floor and offered his amendment. And it was accepted on a voice vote. Senators were aware of what was being discussed. But in a desire to be totally fair and making sure the proper notifi-

cation was given, and to have opposition on the floor when action of that nature is taken, Senator INHOFE has been willing to agree to vitiate that action at this time. I thank him for his cooperation.

This is a very important issue which will be debated in the Senate and which should be considered by the Senate. It is an issue that has support and opposition on both sides of the aisle. Senator INHOFE certainly is very committed to having this subject considered by the Senate either later on this year or next year.

Again, I reiterate my thanks to him.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the Senate now is in a position to consider the Amtrak reform bill. The bill would then be agreed to after brief debate.

The Senate would then conduct a rollcall vote on the nomination of Judge Christina Snyder.

Following the confirmation vote, it is my hope that the District of Columbia appropriations bill will be ready to be considered.

Therefore, votes will occur with the first vote occurring at approximately 2:15 today.

I thank all Senators who have been involved in these other two bills, and we will update them further with information as to when votes may occur. It is possible that another vote will occur this afternoon. But it depends on action in the other body with regard to the appropriations conference reports.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the majority leader for his efforts over the last 24 hours.

I also thank the Senator from Oklahoma.

Obviously, Democratic Senators need to be on the floor to voice their opposition and to object on the occasions when situations like this arise. We also have to work with good faith, and we intend to do that.

There is no reason why we need to be monitoring each other if we are working in good faith. I think this is a misunderstanding. I appreciate very much the cooperation. And we will work with the majority leader to ensure that at some point we have a good debate about the matter that would be addressed by the Inhofe amendment. We will work on this matter in the future.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, will the leader yield?

Mr. DASCHLE. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. INHOFE. I want the majority leader to be aware that I did consult with several Democrats and Republicans before taking up the amendment. But I am happy to do this.

Mr. DASCHLE. Very good.

Again, Mr. President, let me just say that we have a lot of work to do. I look

forward to working with the majority leader in the next 48 hours to see if we can complete it. I am pleased that we are now able to move to the Amtrak bill, and nominations. We can do that, and then move on to other things.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE- MENT—NOMINATION OF CHRIS- TINA A. SNYDER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 today the Senate immediately proceed to executive session and a vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 255, Christina A. Snyder to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of California.

I further ask unanimous consent that following that vote the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nomination appear at that point in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, before we move to the Amtrak legislation, I want to say for the information of all Senators—and I will have more to say about this when we have a recorded vote at 2:15. I think at that time we should take the time to talk about the schedule for the remainder of the day and perhaps Saturday and Sunday.

It is our intent to stay and continue working. I don't see the necessity for us to be late tonight. But we will be back in on Saturday, and again on Sunday. We hope that we will have appropriations conference reports, possibly the first one being the Labor-HHS appropriations conference report, perhaps even later on today or tomorrow, and the Commerce-State-Justice conference report we hope to have by tomorrow, and, if not then, on Sunday.

We will continue to work on other issues, some of which may require votes, even on the Executive Calendar. And then when the House votes, of course, we would then proceed to act on fast track after the House has acted. Whether that is Saturday or Sunday now is not clear. But the House has postponed their action on fast track today. So that will not be taken up until Saturday or Sunday.

So we could be voting on fast track—perhaps on final passage—later on this weekend. But, in the meantime, of course, when we complete these intervening actions, we will go back to fast track as it is now pending before the Senate, and amendments will be in order, and other amendments I am sure will be offered. We will consult with the interested parties about how to proceed on those amendments and what time votes would occur.

But, again, I think that during the remainder of the day it is very likely that we will have a minimum of two votes, and maybe even three or four.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 738

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 179, S. 738.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be withdrawn, and I understand Senator HUTCHISON has a substitute amendment at the desk, and I would ask for its consideration.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I only do so at the request of Senators KERRY and LAUTENBERG, that they be given 10 minutes each at some point following the introduction of the amendment and comments made by Senators MCCAIN and HUTCHISON.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I don't know if we should at this time get consent in that we would have that time. I think they will have it and maybe more if they would like to have it, and we should not and will not complete the discussion on it until the Senators have been involved in working out this compromise are in the Chamber.

I would like to say if I could at this point, I thank the chairman of the committee of jurisdiction, Senator MCCAIN, for his persistence on this matter, and Senator HUTCHISON, who is chairman of the subcommittee, for her efforts in bringing about this compromise. Senator KERRY from the committee as well as Senator BREAUX have worked very hard in developing this compromise.

I have been involved in this effort now for 3 years, having served as chairman of the subcommittee in the previous Congress. I think it is very important that we get fundamental reform of Amtrak so that Amtrak at least will have a chance to be able to provide good service and do it without depending on continuing subsidies from the Federal Government forever. They should be able to turn a profit, and I think this legislation will make that possible. They should be able to contract outwork. They should be able to advertise. There are so many basic private sector things that they could do and should have been doing before now that would allow them to actually make a profit so that we can keep a national rail passenger system. We need a passenger system that serves all the country, not just the eastern seaboard, and this is a major step in that direction.

I want to emphasize, though, too, this is required in order to get the \$2.3 billion that was fenced in the budget agreement for capital improvements. And those funds are only for capital improvements, not for operating sub-

sidies, makeup of shortfalls in the past or salaries. That is not included in this legislation.

I think we have a good bill. After trying to move it for 2 years, I am delighted that the work of a lot of Senators including the Senators here now in the Chamber and others that will be here momentarily will make this possible. I don't want to delay it any longer for fear somebody might have a good idea of one word that might be added.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, at the risk of delaying and only to do what the majority leader has just done, I think the Senators who have worked on this as hard and as long as they have do deserve the commendation just given them not only on that side of the bill but ours as well. The Senators have done an extraordinary job, and I only wish there were more occasions when on a bipartisan basis we could see this kind of leadership and effort put forth. This is a tribute to their effort, and I think a very successful one and I think as a result we are going to see an overwhelming vote on this legislation as we should and I appreciate very much their efforts.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I do want to add, and Senator DASCHLE will want to add, the fact that the ranking member on the committee, Senator HOLLINGS, also has been involved in this for quite some time, and he has been helpful in bringing it to this conclusion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. DASCHLE. I certainly would add that Senator HOLLINGS, in fact, was the last person to sign off on this legislation as is understandable. We appreciate very much the early and perpetual effort he makes on Amtrak matters, and certainly he deserves that recognition as well.

I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Was there an objection to the request from the Democratic leader?

Mr. LOTT. I believe the Chair did not hear objection.

There was not an objection from the Democratic leader on that unanimous consent request to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE
APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT RIVER BASIN COMPACT

CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE
ALABAMA-COOSA-TALLAPOOSA RIVER BASIN COMPACT

Mr. LOTT. Before we go to Amtrak, two other unanimous-consent requests.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the immediate consideration of House Joint Resolution 91 and House Joint Resolution 92 which were received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (H.J. Res. 91) granting the consent of Congress to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact.

A resolution (H.J. Res. 92) granting the consent of Congress to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolutions?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolutions.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolutions be considered as read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 92) were passed.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has passed House Joint Resolutions 91 and 92 granting the consent of Congress to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa [ACT] and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint [ACF] River Basin Compacts. I would like to thank the majority leader, his staff, and my colleagues from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida for their efforts and leadership in moving these valuable bills.

With the passage of these compacts, the three States now may move forward and begin the difficult task of allocating water resources throughout the region. The compacts set forth the framework for the three States to resolve the critical issue of how our scarce water resources are divided. This partnership will enable the States to determine the best utilization of our shared water supply. These rivers are an invaluable resource to our States—essential to Alabama's economic and personal well-being.

I look forward to continuing to work with Gov. Fob James and the Alabama delegation to assure that Alabama's water needs are met today and in the future.

AMTRAK REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 738) to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriation for Amtrak, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in *italic*.)